

## CLAIMS

1. An appliance for cooking food under pressure, the appliance comprising:

5 a bowl and a lid (2) designed to be mounted on the bowl to form a leaktight cooking enclosure;

a temperature sensor (10); and

a pressure-regulating valve (3) that is sensitive to the pressure prevailing inside the cooking enclosure and that is mounted to move between two stable abutment  
10 positions, namely a first position in which it shuts off communication from the enclosure to the outside so long as the internal pressure is lower than a predetermined pressure  $P_0$ , and a second position in which it puts the inside of the enclosure into communication with the  
15 outside via a steam outlet (7) once the internal pressure reaches substantially the predetermined pressure  $P_0$ ;

said appliance being characterized in that the temperature sensor (10) is disposed in the vicinity of the outlet (7) so as to make it possible to sense the  
20 increase in temperature resulting from the steam passing through the steam outlet (7), and is connected functionally to a timer (11) so as to trigger it once the increase in temperature is sensed.

25 2. An appliance according to claim 1, characterized in that the timer (11) and the temperature sensor (10) are mounted on the bowl or on the lid (2).

30 3. An appliance according to claim 2, characterized in that the timer (11) is removable.

4. An appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the timer (11) is connected functionally to the temperature sensor (10) via  
35 electrical connectors (20).

5. An appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the steam outlet (7) is formed by a duct (13) starting downstream from the valve (3).

5 6. An appliance according to claim 5, characterized in that the temperature sensor (10) is mounted outside of the duct (13).

10 7. An appliance according to claim 6, characterized in that the temperature sensor (10) is mounted against the outside surface of the duct (13).

8. A timer serving to be used and mounted on an appliance according to any one of claims 1 to 7.

15 9. A method of monitoring the cooking cycle of a pressure-cooking appliance, in which method the temperature of the jet of steam discharged by the pressure-regulating valve of the appliance is used to  
20 trigger automatically a timer mounted on the appliance.

10. A method according to claim 9, characterized in that simultaneously to being triggered, the timer emits a warning signal, e.g. a light signal or a sound signal,  
25 for warning the user.

11. A method according to claim 9 or 10, characterized in that, with the timer being mounted removably on the appliance, the timer is dissociated from the appliance,  
30 and then the progress of the cooking is monitored remotely from the appliance by consulting the timer.

12. A method according to claim 11, characterized in that the timer emits a warning signal at the end of the  
35 cooking cycle.